

Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

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14

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 DODE-00 H-01 PM-03

INR-05 PRS-01 SP-02 CIAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-05

SAM-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 /046 W
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O P 311101Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6812

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

S E C R E T AMMAN 0523

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS JO AS US

SUBJECT: TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER--HAWK FINANCING

REF: AMMAN 0505

1. HAD A QUICK OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER. APPARENTLY SAUDIS ON THE BASIS OF THEIR OWN INFORMATION APPORTIONED ONLY \$300 MILLION FOR THE JORDANIAN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. JORDANIAN RESPONSE WAS THAT SAUDIS HAD COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO FUND THE FULL SYSTEM--HAWK AND VULCAN. THAT INCLUDED THE 14 BATTERIES WHICH JORDAN HAD WORKED SO HARD TO GET FROM THE UNITED STATES. IF THE SAUDIS ARE ONLY ABLE TO PROVIDE \$300 MILLION THE JORDANIANS WILL BE FORCED TO CANCEL THE AMERICAN SYSTEM AND SEE WHETHER THEY CAN GET A CHEAPER BUT POSSIBLY ADEQUATE SYSTEM ELSEWHERE (READ SOVIET UNION)

2. SAUDI FINANCE MINISTER'S REACTION WAS THAT HE WOULD REPORT IMMEDIATELY THE SITUATION WHICH HE UNDERSTOOD COMPLETELY AND GET AN EARLY RESPONSE. RIFAI SAID HE IMPRESSED UPON THE SAUDI THE US STATUTORY REQUIRE-

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MENTS THE FACT THAT THE US HAD BEEN EXTREMELY FLEXIBLE UP TO THIS POINT WITH JORDAN, AND THAT A DECISION HAD

TO BE MADE VERY QUICKLY. HE EXPECTS TO HAVE A DECISION
SHORTLY AND STILL PLANS TO GO TO SAUDI ARABIA TO SEE
FAHD TOMORROW,ALTHOUGH HE IS AWAITING A DEFINITIVE
REPLY FROM THE SAUDIS.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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